

# THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA IS THE BEST AGENDA

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, what is the Republican agenda? The Republican agenda is the best agenda for all Americans. B is for bolstering our national security, E is for education excellence, S is for strengthening retirement security, and T is for tax relief for working Americans.

Republicans have the BEST agenda. It is a positive, forward-looking agenda that recognizes that our military needs must be given a higher priority in a dangerous world, that our schools need to be improved if our kids are going to enjoy a bright future, that our seniors need to be protected against a looming social security and Medicare crisis, and that Americans who pay the taxes should be given tax relief, not more rhetoric about why Washington needs more money.

Bolstering national security, education excellence, strengthening retirement security, tax relief for working Americans, Republicans have the BEST agenda.

## THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am continually amazed by the misinformation spread about the Patients' Bill of Rights. I know the businesses in my district believe this Patients' Bill of Rights would allow enrollees to sue their employers for denied benefits, but nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the Patients' Bill of Rights contains explicit provisions stating that employers cannot be sued for decisions made by health insurers.

I hope that the American people this time will see through the smokescreen being thrown up by too many groups who have too much interest in killing this legislation. The more time goes by, we risk losing this opportunity altogether. The powerful forces lined up against this legislation will accept another delay to give them the chance to marshall their forces.

We have plenty of time to pass an irresponsible tax cut, time to prevent the Department of Labor from protecting people against workplace injuries, time to name buildings and courthouses, but evidently we do not have the time to protect the very lives and limbs of our constituents.

After this Friday, this Chamber is out of session for 36 days. How many of those days will we fritter away on sound bites and legislation designed for special groups?

# POLITICS AS USUAL WHEN IT COMES TO SPENDING THE MONEY OF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, it is politics as usual when it comes to spending our money, the money of the people of America.

The Republican approach is threefold. Number one, the Republican party wants to preserve 100 percent of the social security surplus as compared to 62 percent that the President wants to protect.

Now, we do this, we put aside \$1.9 trillion for social security and Medicare, and the second thing we do is we pay down the debt, \$2 trillion, as seen on this chart. The third thing we do, and only after social security, Medicare, and debt reduction, we return to American people their money for overpayment on taxes.

The President's attitude is somewhat epitomized in this statement: "We could give the surplus all back to you and hope you spend it right." Gee, whiz, people of America, Bill Clinton can spend your money better than you can spend it. Does that not make us feel good?

All I can say is, the people in America must not know how to spend money at all, judging by the responsibility exhibited over at the White House the past 2 years.

Let me say this, this is Americans' money. It ought to go back to them.

## UNDER THE REPUBLICAN TAX CUT, WORKING AMERICANS GET THE SHAFT

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ran down to this floor when I heard my colleague, the gentleman from California, refer to the Republican tax cut as fair and balanced. I thought, how could such a huge tax cut, aimed almost exclusively at the super wealthy and the giant corporations, be called balanced? And then I understood what he must have meant.

See, under this tax cut, the top 1 percent wealthiest Americans get ten times the tax relief as 100 million Americans, constituting the lower 40 percent of income earners. At the same time, this tax cut provides more tax relief to job-exporting corporations than it provides to over 50 million Americans.

Madam Speaker, that is the balance. Compared to the super wealthy, working Americans get the shaft. Compared to giant corporations, working families get the shaft. That is the only sense in

which the Republican tax cut is balanced.

## CONGRESS MUST PASS THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. HOEFFEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOEFFEL. Madam Speaker, we must pass the Patients' Bill of Rights. Our system of HMOs has run amok.

As evidence, I offer a survey of doctors conducted by one of the newspapers in my district, the Reporter, in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Most of the doctors responding were not against the original idea of HMOs, they have just said the rules have gone haywire.

Eighty-seven percent of the doctors responding have had conflicts with HMOs. Fifty-eight percent of those say the conflicts have been serious, and happen frequently. Seventy percent of the doctors say they do not have sufficient control over treatment.

As damning as the numbers are, the doctor's comments say even more. Dr. Ruth Schiller, a Harleysville, Pennsylvania, pediatrician, says that "HMOs are worse in the sense that I cannot make all of the decisions for appropriate care."

Another doctor said, "The American people need to wake up. Their lives are in danger with HMO control. Doctors have to put away their medical books and do what the HMO manual says for their patients."

A third doctor was afraid to sign his survey for fear of HMO retaliation. Something has gone wrong. "HMO" stands for How Much Outrage must the American people put up with? Pass the Patients' Bill of Rights.

## FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 263 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2606.

□ 1030

### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2606) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. THORNBERRY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Monday,